

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system for a lean-burn internal combustion engine comprising a soot filter packed with a mass of elongate, flat, narrow strip metal and a catalyst located upstream of the filter for oxidising NO to NO₂ for combusting soot collected on the filter in NO₂, wherein the catalyst is supported on a metal substrate of the type used in the filter, ~~but at~~ having a lower packing density, to permit passage of soot particles.
2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, comprising, ~~an exhaust gas treatment system comprising,~~ in order from upstream to downstream, a plurality of metal-based filters adapted ~~to successively~~ to trap smaller and smaller particles.
3. (Original) A system according to claim 2, comprising at least one wall flow filter for trapping yet smaller particles.
4. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, comprising a flow-through monolith between the or each pair of metal-based filters.
5. (Original) A system according to claim 4, wherein the or each flow-through monolith comprises a NO oxidation catalyst, whereby to restore the NO₂ content, which had been decreased by reaction with soot in the preceding filter.
6. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the filter capacity is sufficient to allow the soot to be combusted continuously by the oxidant.
7. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the filter capacity is sized for accumulations of soot sufficient to increase pressure-drop significantly before the next period of fast running and the system includes a bypass, wherein the pressure-drop through which is equal to the design maximum tolerated pressure-drop through the filter(s), whereby to avoid engine stalling.
8. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 7, comprising means to limit soot emission to atmosphere located downstream of the bypass, which means ~~comprising a~~

~~second stage such as~~ being selected from the group consisting of a filter, or an impingement collector and/or an oxidation catalyst, downstream of the bypass.

9. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the filter ~~has, wholly or domain wise,~~ comprises a regular coiled, woven or knitted structure.
10. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the metal of the filter is Type 300 or Type 400 stainless steel.
11. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the metal ~~of from which~~ the filter is made comprises an iron alloy containing at least 11.5% Cr, 4% Al and 0.02-0.25% minor constituents such as rare earth, zirconium or hafnium.
12. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the width of the metal strip of the filter is up to 2, ~~especially in the range of 0.1 to 0.5 mm~~ and its thickness is 0.2 to 0.8 ~~of times~~ its width.
13. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~8~~12, wherein the flat, narrow strip metal is a flattened wire.
14. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the filter packing carries a layer catalytic for soot oxidation.
15. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 14, wherein the filter ~~comprises a catalytic layer coating comprising a washcoat and a component selected from the group consisting of including Pt or and~~ oxides of Cs and V.
16. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, comprising means for generating ~~ozone and/or a plasma~~ a component for combusting soot collected on the filter selected from the group consisting of ozone and plasma.
17. (Currently Amended) An internal combustion engine comprising an exhaust system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~.
18. (Original) A diesel engine according to claim 17.
19. (Original) A system according to claim 3, comprising a flow through-monolith between the or each pair of metal-based filters.

20. (Original) A system according to claim 19, wherein the or each flow-through monolith comprises a NO oxidation catalyst, whereby to restore the NO₂ content, which had been decreased by reaction with soot in the preceding filter.
21. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the width of the metal strip is in the range 0.1 to 0.5 mm.